

military. Following World War II, White Sands was where German scientist Werner Von Braun conceived, developed, and tested the long-range V-2 rockets, initiating America's space program. Since then, White Sands has continued to support essential defense and space exploration programs for the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, alongside other important scientific research.

Today's WSMR, which spans 3,200 square miles of the Tularosa Basin, is the Department of Defense's largest, fully-instrumented test range. It provides our Armed Forces, our allies, and defense technology partners with unrivaled terrain for research, testing, evaluation, experimentation, and training that ensures our defense readiness. WSMR executes an average of 5,000 tests each year. These tests, in emerging technologies such as swarming autonomous and unmanned systems, joint integrated air and missile defense, nuclear weapons effects, and space based capabilities, will keep WSMR at the forefront of our national defense for years to come.

As part of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, WSMR is the Army Center of Excellence for Air and Missile Defense Test Bed and Precision Fires Rockets and Missiles. White Sands supports key capabilities in the National Defense Strategy and modernization priorities, including directed energy systems such as laser and high-powered microwave systems, kinetics, electromagnetic pulse, hypersonic and long-range precision fires, U.S. Space Program test support, nuclear weapons effects, and autonomous systems.

While it is a U.S. Army installation stewarded by the Army, WSMR is chartered as a tri-service installation, home to elements of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force. Other organizations conducting operations at WSMR include NASA, National Reconnaissance Office, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the Research and Analysis Center, Center for Countermeasures, and Combat Capabilities Development Command (Data and Analysis Center and Army Research Laboratory).

WSMR also hosts the Bataan Memorial Death March each year, a large and growing event that recognizes the heroism and sacrifice of the New Mexicans and others who endured and in many cases lost their lives to the horrors of World War II's Bataan Death March. I have had the distinct honor of joining this incredible event on a few occasions and treasure the valuable lessons it imparts on everyone who participates.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation and congratulations to everyone who works hard every single day at WSMR to keep all of us safe. President John F. Kennedy stated it best, when he stood before your predecessors at WSMR during a visit on June 5, 1963.

President Kennedy said: "What you do here far and away from Washington, far away from our great capitals, far away from so many countries which depend upon us, what you do here, what progress you make, what dedication you demonstrate makes a significant difference to the security of our country and those who depend upon us."

I could not agree more. I wish everyone at WSMR a happy 75th anniversary and will continue to support WSMR's critical work in defense of our great Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. HALSTEAD

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career of Robert J. Halstead, or as most of us know him, Bob. To some, this name might sound familiar. He has appeared before Congress on a number of occasions on behalf of the State of Nevada to provide expert witness testimony on nuclear waste storage and transportation. His name graces the archives at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, and he has been a fierce and dedicated partner in the fight against the Yucca Mountain project.

In 1988, the year after the "screw Nevada bill" recklessly designated Yucca Mountain as the Nation's sole high-level nuclear waste repository site, Bob brought his knowledge of Federal radioactive waste programs and activities to help arm Nevada in its fight against the broken and misguided processes that led to the Yucca Mountain designation. At the time, he may not have known how long of a fight he was signing up for, but Bob never looked back.

He threw himself into helping Nevada, learning every aspect of the complicated and far-fetched license application, analyzing the geography of the site, and leaving no stone unturned when reviewing proposed transportation routes that would ship one of the most dangerous materials known to man across the country to Nevada.

For more than 30 years, he helped guide the State on nuclear transportation matters, poured over environmental impact statements, submitted contentions to the Yucca Mountain application, and represented the State in technical proceedings that involved the proposed repository. These are just a few of the things we have to thank him for.

Since 2011, Bob served as the executive director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, always making himself available to assist the Governor. Before coming to the Senate, I had the pleasure of working alongside Bob during my time as the Nevada Attorney General. No matter the day or hour, Bob always made time to review materials and provide well-informed, robust responses not just to me, but to my staff.

It was comforting knowing someone with his exceptional experience was at the helm, guiding the State on an issue that is so important to Nevadans and trying to right the wrongs of the Federal Government's reckless mismanagement of nuclear waste.

Just last year, when the State learned of secret weapons-grade plutonium and mischaracterized waste shipments having been received at the Nevada National Security Site, Bob once again proved how instrumental he is to the State of Nevada. His institutional knowledge of Nevada's nuclear history and depth of experience provided the State with an unmatched resource as it rose to challenge the shipments.

Bob has been a vital contributor and colleague; and as he embarks on his well-deserved retirement, I want to share my deepest appreciation and gratitude for his decades-long commitment to helping Nevadans as they have worked to bring fairness, reason, and science back to the repository site designation process.

It is my understanding that Bob will be returning to his home in Wisconsin, where he will live with his wife, Margaret. Bob is looking forward to having more time with his two grown children and finally having time for one of his favorite past times: fishing.

As he casts a line in one of the many beautiful lakes Wisconsin has to offer, I hope he knows how much the State of Nevada and I appreciate the sacrifices he has made to protect the safety of Nevadans and the time he has dedicated to one of our State's greatest fights.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA COCHRAN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Jessica Cochran of Blaine County for her entrepreneurship and creativity during these challenging times.

The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted so many Montana small business owners and local communities. During these challenging times, it is tougher than ever for new entrepreneurs to open up shop.

Jessica, a sixth grade teacher at Harlem Elementary School, however took the initiative to start up her own ice cream truck business this summer to spread some cheer to her community during these hard times.

Jessica started Bliss Ice Cream, after acquiring and renovating a 1985 Chevy Astro van. Jessica also secured all the necessary permits and licenses as an independent contractor and food vendor for the summer. Owning an ice cream truck has been a dream of hers since a child. She has taken the initiative to purchase all the necessary supplies and decorations for the children of Harlem and the Fort Belknap area.

It is my honor to recognize Jessica for taking the bold initiative to pursue her dream and bring some much needed joy to the children of her community. As a teacher and a new entrepreneur,